DEMONSTRATION NOTICE



U.S. Embassy La Paz, Bolivia

> July 12, 2011 4:54 PM

The U.S. Embassy in La Paz has received information about blockades causing fuel shortage in the city of La Paz:

Due to road blockades by residents in the Senkata and Ventilla region and around the main gasoline distribution center located in Senkata, the city of La Paz is experiencing fuel shortages. Buses are not departing from the La Paz Bus Terminal. There are also several blockade points on the road from La Paz to Oruro. Fuel in La Paz is expected to be depleted by mid day today. Due to fuel shortage in La Paz, American Airlines has confirmed that its flight, which was scheduled to arrive to La Paz on July 12, 2011, at 18:00, will now fly directly to Santa Cruz. Local flights have confirmed their schedules but will be subject to possible cancellations or delays. U.S. citizens are advised to monitor local news for road conditions and contact airlines to confirm their itineraries before commencing travel to and from La Paz. U.S. citizens should avoid areas of ongoing demonstrations and make every effort to depart an area where a demonstration or roadblock is forming.

U.S. citizens are reminded of the following emergency preparedness advice and directives:

- Maintain an adequate supply of food, water, medicines, and any other necessary items for your family on hand in your home.
- Fill your vehicle with gas and avoid letting it get below half tank.
- Avoid areas where roadblocks and demonstrations are occurring and do not attempt to run blockades.
- U.S. citizens are advised to monitor the local media.

The U.S. Embassy reminds you that demonstrations and road blockades are not unusual in Bolivia, and even though they might be intended to be peaceful they can turn confrontational between security forces, demonstrators, and bystanders, and escalate into violence. You should avoid them if at all possible. If you find yourself in the vicinity of a large gathering, you should leave the area immediately for your own safety. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to what the local news media has to say. Please note that the police have limited capabilities outside major cities and communication is poor.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the Embassy website, found here. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have internet access, we have a call center for updates--1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, via e-mail at consularlapaz@state.gov or by telephone at 591-2-216-8246 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or 591-715-33713 after hours and on weekends. The U.S. Embassy is located at 2780 Arce Avenue in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 08:00 to 12:30, and Thursdays from 14:00 to 16:00. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting this website.

The Embassy operates two Consular Agencies in the cities of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia. These agencies can also provide assistance to U.S. citizens. The Santa Cruz Consular Agency is located on Roque Aguilera Avenue #146 (3rd ring). You can contact the Santa Cruz Consular Agency by telephone at 591-3-351-3477, during regular business hours (Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.). The Cochabamba Consular Agency is located on Edificio Saal, Avenida Pando 1122, 1st Floor. You can contact the Cochabamba Consular Agency by telephone at 591-4-411-6313, during regular business hours (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.). If you wish to visit the Consular Agencies for a non-emergency matter, please schedule an appointment through this website.